

## AFP-L3 PIVKA-II

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## Abstract

### Clinical Implication of Automatically Analysed AFP-L3 and PIVKA-II in the Diagnosis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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**Background/Aims:** Prothrombin induced by Vitamin K Antagonist-II (PIVKA-II) and alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) subtype reacting with Lens Culinaris Agglutinin (AFP-L3) are known as specific tumor markers for HCC. Recently a more sensitive EIA method for PIVKA-II and an automatic analyzer with Liquid Phase Binding Assay method (LBA method) for AFP-L3 have been developed. The aim of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of PIVKA-II and AFP-L3 measured by newly developed methods as complementary tumor markers to AFP in the diagnosis of HCC. **Methods:** The serum concentration of AFP, PIVKA-II, and a fraction of AFP-L3 were determined from 188 patients with HCC and 118 patients with various liver diseases including 46 with liver cirrhosis, 10 with chronic hepatitis, 50 with metastatic liver cancers, and 12 with benign tumors of the liver. AFP was measured by EIA, PIVKA-II by sensitive EIA, and AFP-L3 by the LBA method with LiBASys Auto-analyzer. The cutoff values for AFP, PIVKA-II, and AFP-L3 were 400 ng/mL, 40 mAU/mL, and 15%, respectively. **Results:** The sensitivity and specificity of serum PIVKA-II were 69.2% and 76.5%, respectively. Sixty-two (51.2%) of 121 patients with HCC, in which AFP was less than 400 ng/mL were PIVKA-II positive. The sensitivity and specificity of serum AFP-L3 were 48.8% and 90.8%, respectively. When AFP-L3 was used in combination with PIVKA-II, 31 (46.3%) of the 67 patients with small less than 3 cm HCC were positive for at least one of these markers. **Conclusion:** PIVKA-II measured by sensitive EIA may be useful for the diagnosis of HCC with low AFP level. AFP-L3 and PIVKA-II may improve the detection rate of small HCCs less than 3 cm. (**Korean J Hepatol 2001;7:467-474**)

**Key Words:** AFP, PIVKA-II, AFP-L3, Hepatocellular carcinoma, Tumor markers

◇ 2001 9 3 ; 2001 10 17 ; 2001 11 26  
◇ Abbreviations: HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; LC, Liver cirrhosis; CH, Chronic hepatitis; FBL, Focal benign lesion; FNH, Focal nodular hyperplasia; AFP, Alpha-fetoprotein; PIVKA-II, Protein induced by Vitamin K Absence or Antagonist-II; AFP-L3, Alpha-fetoprotein subtype reacts with Lens Cullinaris Agglutinin; EIA, Enzyme immunoassay; LBA, Liquid-phase Binding Assay.  
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가

( ) 50-60%, 3 cm 20-30%<sup>1</sup>

, CT, MRI, 가 가

<sup>2</sup> AFP

1 cm

AFP-L3 PIVKA-II AFP

가 AFP-L3 Liquid-Phase Binding Assay (LBA)

<sup>3</sup>

가 가

B AFP

AFP-L3 PIVKA-II

CT MRI

stage 가 subclinical

2000 7 2001 3 306

188 , 10 , 46 ,

50 , 12

modality HBsAg, anti-HCV

82.1%, 13.9%

HBsAg, anti-HCV 60.0%, 10.9%

AFP, AFP-L3, PIVKA-II

188

43

(22.9%) 3 cm 67

alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) 306 AFP가 400 ng/mL

121 , AFP가 20 ng/mL

**Table 1.** Serum Levels of AFP, PIVKA-II, AFP-L3 in HCC and Non-HCC Groups

	AFP			PIVKA-II		AFP-L3	
	< 20	20-400	400 <	-	+	-	+
HCC	64 (34.0%)	57 (30.4%)	67 (35.6%)	58 (31.8%)	130 (69.2%)	96 (51.2%)	92 (48.8%)
Other cancer	35 (70.0%)	14 (28.0%)	1 (2.0%)	42 (84.0%)	8 (16.0%)	45 (90.0%)	5 (10.0%)
LC	44 (95.6%)	1 (2.2%)	1 (2.2%)	38 (82.6%)	8 (17.4%)	42 (91.3%)	4 (8.7%)
CH	3 (30.0%)	5 (50.0%)	2 (20.0%)	8 (80.0%)	2 (20.0%)	10 (100%)	0 (0.0%)
FBL	8 (66.7%)	3 (25.0%)	1 (8.3%)	10 (83.3%)	2 (16.7%)	12 (100%)	0 (0.0%)

\*, Other cancer: cholangiocarcinoma, metastatic liver cancer; \*, LC: liver cirrhosis, CH: chronic hepatitis; \*, FBL: focal benign lesion of liver (hemangioma, cyst, FNH, fatty liver).

26 , AFP , 57 (30.4%) 20 400  
 147 가 67 (35.6%) AFP 가 400  
 . 145 2 (4.4%) AFP  
 가 20 , 10 7  
 가 AFP 가 20 . 130  
 (69.2%) PIVKA-II 가 40 mAU/mL  
 , 92 (48.8%) AFP-L3 가  
 . AFP electro- 15% . 8 (17.4%)  
 chemiluminescence immunoassay (Boehringer man- PIVKA-II 가 40 mAU/mL , 4  
 heim co, Von, Germany) , PIVKA-II (8.7%) AFP-L3 가 15% .  
 sensitive EIA (FRS , SRL co, Tokyo, Japan) AFP-L3  
 . AFP-L3 LiBASys Auto- 가 15% ( 1).  
 analyzer (Wako, Osaka, Japan) AFP 1 (20 ) , 2  
 LBA . (20 400 ) , 3 (400 )  
 AFP, AFP-L3, PIVKA-II 400 , 1 3 (30%), 2 5 (50%),  
 ng/mL, 15%, 40 mAU/mL . 3 2 (20%) , 1 44  
 SPSS-WIN version 10.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, (95.5%), 2 1 (2.2%), 3 1 (2.2%) .  
 USA) . t-test, Chi- 188 1 64 , 2 57 , 3 67  
 square test, Mann-Whitney test, Wilcoxon test, ( 1).  
 Spearman's test, Levene's test . AFP, AFP-L3, PIVKA-II  
 / 35.6%/95.8%, 48.8%/  
 90.8%, 69.2%/76.5% .  
 PIVKA-II AFP ,  
 . AFP-L3  
 . AFP  
 .  
 , AFP+PIVKA-II, AFP+AFP-L3  
 가 가  
 / 가 71.5%/73.4%, 54.5%/84.7%  
 가  
 64 (34.0%) AFP 가 20 ng/mL 가

**Table 2.** Sensitivity, Specificity of AFP, PIVKA-II, AFP-L3 for the Diagnosis of HCC

Cut-off value	AFP 400 ng/mL	PIVKA-II 40 mAU/mL	AFP-L3 15%	AFP+PIVKA	AFP+AFP-L3
Sensitivity	35.6	69.2	48.8	71.5	54.5
Specificity	95.8	76.5	90.8	73.4	84.7
Pos Pred value	93.1	81.0	88.4	81.3	85.2
Neg pred value	48.5	63.2	55.1	61.5	54.7

**Table 3.** Positive rate for PIVKA-II and AFP-L3 in relation to AFP levels in patients with HCC

AFP (ng/mL)	Number of patients	PIVKA-II (400 mAU/mL)	AFP-L3 (15%)	PIVKA-II+AFP-L3
< 20	64 (34.0%)	30 (46.9%)	8 (12.5%)	31 (48.4%)
20-400	57 (30.4%)	32 (56.1%)	31 (54.4%)	43 (75.4%)
> 400	67 (35.6%)	51 (76.1%)	47 (70.1%)	58 (86.5%)
Total	188	113 (60.1%)	86 (45.7%)	132 (70.2%)

**Table 4.** Positive rate for PIVKA-II and AFP-L3 in relation to AFP levels in patients with small HCC ( < 3 cm)

AFP (ng/mL)	Number of Patients	PIVKA-II (40 mAU/mL)	AFP-L3 (15%)	PIVKA-II+AFP-L3
< 20	28 (41.8%)	8 (28.6%)	2 (7.2%)	9 (32.1%)
20-400	29 (43.3%)	9 (31.0%)	11 (37.9%)	16 (55.2%)
> 400	10 (14.9%)	4 (40.0%)	4 (40.0%)	6 (60.0%)
Total	67	21 (31.3%)	17 (25.4%)	31 (46.3%)

( 2).  
188 AFP AFP-L3 31 (46.3%) ( 4).  
L3 1 12.5% , 2 AFP, AFP-L3, PIVKA-II  
54.4% , 3 70.1% . AFP (Edmonson grade)  
가 20 400  
PIVKA-II 1 46.9%, 2 가 ( 1).  
56.1%, 3 76.1% . AFP 가 400  
PIVKA-II 51.2%  
( 3).  
67 AFP AFP-L3, AFP 72,000  
PIVKA-II 1 7.2%, 28.6%  
, 2 37.9%, 31.0% , 3 ,  
40.0%, 40.0% . AFP , AFP  
가 400 10 (14.9%) ,  
PIVKA-II가 40 21 (31.3%), AFP-  
L3가 15% 17 (25.4%), PIVKA-II



, PIVKA-II AFP

. AFP

. AFP-L3 AFP PIVKA-II

,  
Fei .  
19-48%

AFP-L3가 35-90%

<sup>12-17</sup> Saitoh <sup>22</sup> Avidin Biotin Complex  
2 cm  
가 48%  
가 가 AFP  
가  
AFP-L3 PIVKA-II가 가  
<sup>3</sup>  
. AFP가

.  
PIVKA-II (protein induced by vitamin K absence  
or antagonist-II) vitamin K ,  
,  
<sup>18</sup> Liebman 1984 . AFP-L3

PIVKA-II  
<sup>19</sup> PIVKA-II  
,  
Sassa <sup>23</sup> PIVKA-II AFP-L3  
가 2 cm  
1998 가  
<sup>20</sup>  
PIVKA-II AFP 가  
<sup>21</sup>  
AFP 가 400 ng/mL  
51.2%  
43%  
PIVKA-II가 AFP  
,  
, 가  
PIVKA-II 가 AFP  
( 3), 가

serum alpha-L  
-fucosidase, soluble intercellular adhesion  
molecule-1 (sICAM-1) 가  
가 <sup>24</sup>  
LBA AFP-L3  
AFP가 20-400 ng/mL

AFP

AFP-L3 PIVKA-II 3 cm

가

: PIVKA-II AFP-L3

PIVKA-II

가 , AFP-L3

가

PIVKA-II

AFP-L3 B

: 306

( 225 , 51 , 54 ,  
188 , 10 , 46 ,  
50 , 12 )

AFP, PIVKA-II, AFP-L3 FP  
electrochemiluminescence immunoassay (Boehringer  
manheim co, Von, Germany) , PIVKA-II  
sensitive EIA (FRS , SRL co, Tokyo, Japan),  
AFP-L3 LiBASys Auto-analyzer (Wako, Osaka,  
Japan) LBA

AFP, PIVKA-II, AFP-L3 400  
ng/mL, 40 mAU/mL, 15% :  
PIVKA-II ,  
69.2%, 76.5% . AFP가 400 ng/mL  
121 PIVKA-II  
62 (52.1%) .  
AFP-L3 ,  
48.8%, 90.8% . AFP-L3 PIVKA-II  
3 cm 가 67  
31 (46.3%)

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